



Walter Fritz

Patch High School JROTC cadets Lioret Reeves, center, and Adama LaMon, right, spent their Thanksgiving break at a Romanian orphanage. Under the direction of PHS teacher Gary Kelb, a contingent of PHS students and teachers brought computers, cash and holiday cheer to the orphanage's 145 residents.

Community members open hearts, wallets in spirit of holiday giving

By Hugh C. McBride

From a dining facility in Bosnia to an orphanage in Romania, members of the Stuttgart military community have made special efforts this year to ensure that the spirit of the holidays envelops those who are far from their families.

In addition to the many individuals who reached into their wallets to support the Combined Federal Campaign and ongoing local efforts for injured service members in Landstuhl Army Medical Center, two contingents of community members hit the road and took to the skies to deliver both supplies and support.

Bosnia bound

U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald led a contingent from EUCOM to Camp McGovern, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to spend Thanksgiving with troops serving there with the Minnesota National Guard's "Task Force Iron."

The Headquarters EUCOM group also included Wald's wife, Marilyn; Maj. Gen. James Darden, director of Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, and his wife, Madelaine; Col. John Kelly, executive officer to the deputy commander, and Robert Moore, deputy director of Logistics and Security Assistance.

The visitors toured Camp McGovern, met with service members serving there, and joined them for a Thanksgiving dinner – part of which was served by the EUCOM deputy commander himself.

"We were there to thank the service members for their efforts," Wald said, "and for all they do for the United States."

In addition to their good wishes, the EUCOM group also delivered homemade baked goods and a 14-foot banner of appreciation covered with signatures from Stuttgart community members.

Hope and help for Romania

Patch High School teachers Gary Kelb and Walter Fritz and five PHS students spent their Thanksgiving break in Sântana, Romania, with the staff and residents of the SOS-Copiii Orphanage.

The Patch group brought computers and much needed cash, but Kelb said the most important part of the trip was the simple human interaction between the orphanage residents and their American guests.

"No matter how much I take down there, I always bring back more," said Kelb, who has been helping to support the



Sgt. Brian Taylor

U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald works the serving line at Camp McGovern, Bosnia and Herzegovina, during a Thanksgiving dinner for deployed troops.

orphanage for 10 years.

Kelb said he travels to the orphanage at least four times a year, traditionally bringing cadets from the PHS Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps with him on the Thanksgiving visit.

This year, cadets Lioret Reeves and Adama LaMon accompanied Kelb, bringing with them a \$1,000 donation raised primarily from their organization's annual "Turkey Shoot."

PHS students Josh Anderson and Jeff Jones also took part in the trip, delivering 10 computers as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Kelb said the orphanage, which houses 145 residents in nine homes, receives only 50 cents per day per resident from the Romanian government for operating expenses.

To contribute supplies or money to "Kelb's Kids" in Romania's SOS-Copiii Orphanage, leave a message for Kelb at Patch High School (430-7191/civ. 0711-680-7191) or e-mail gary_kelb@eu.odedodea.edu.

News & Notes

Holiday closures, changes

The following organizations have scheduled closures or special hours during the holiday season:

■ The **Patch Barracks Shoppette** will close Dec. 24, 10 p.m. The store will be open Dec. 25, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and will resume 24-hour operation Dec. 26, 6 a.m.

■ The **Patch Barracks Commissary** will be open Dec. 22 and Dec. 29, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

■ The **Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility** will be open for walk-ins Dec. 19, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Dec. 23, 9 to 11:30 a.m.; and Dec. 29, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Vaccination, sick call, and health certificate visits will be seen during these hours, but no surgeries will be performed.

■ The **Stuttgart Area Homeschoolers Association** will not meet the last Tuesday of December. The group's next meeting is Jan. 27.

For details call 0712-723-7088.

■ The **Robinson Barracks Arts & Photo Center** will be closed Dec. 25 to 28 and Dec. 30 to Jan. 4.

The center will be open Dec. 24, 1 to 3 p.m., and Dec. 29, 3 to 9 p.m.

■ The **Defense Automated Printing Service** will be closed Dec. 15 to Jan. 2; however, services will be available through the Mannheim office during this period.

For more information, 6th ASG customers may call 421-2917 or e-mail lieselott.kienzle@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil. All other customers should call 384-6491 or e-mail womackk@cmtymail.26asg.army.mil.

Sixt now open Sundays

The Sixt car rental office on Panzer Kaserne (building 2953) is now open Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information call 07031-226-307.

Red Cross teaches pet first aid

Stuttgart's American Red Cross is sponsoring a pet first aid class January 13 and 15, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. each evening, in the Panzer Veterinary Treatment Facility.

There is no minimum enrollment age, but students must be old enough to understand the information and pay attention during the class. The class costs \$25, and each participant receives a first-aid reference book.

To register call 431-2818/civ. 07031-15-818.

ARC seeks clinic coordinator

The Stuttgart American Red Cross is looking for a volunteer medical clinic coordinator. The MCC supervises and coordinates volunteers in the Medical Clinic, and serves as a liaison between volunteers, Red Cross staff, and the clinic staff.

For details call Carolyn Van Antwerp at 431-2818/civ. 07031-15-818 or e-mail RVanant2515@aol.com.

ACS offers speakers

Army Community Service is offering family readiness groups and private organizations the opportunity to have an "ACS After Hours" program presentation at their meetings.

Program information can be catered to the group's needs and interests, with topics including stress management, sponsorship information, job search tools and Army Family Team Building. For details call 430-4176/civ. 0711-680-4176.

'Follies' time approaches

The PHS Follies – Patch High School's annual talent show – is coming your way again Feb. 20.

Interested students should begin organizing their acts during the upcoming holidays and be ready for auditions Feb. 2 and 3. All talented acts are invited to audition.

For more information e-mail Patchfollies@aol.com or call Vince or Therese DeSanto at 07157-620-488.

Celebrate 'Bah Humbug' Day

Celebrate Bah Humbug Day Dec. 19 by letting volunteers from Stuttgart's BOSS program and MWR Marketing wrap your Christmas gifts for free in Slider's Lounge, 4 to 8 p.m.

For details call 421-2000/civ. 0711-729-2000.